

## ***Church Unique Foreword***

Max Lucado

Uniqueness permeates God's plan. From galaxies to sandbanks, fossils to snowflakes. Each element is unique. God's unrivaled creation soars with originality.

So do His children. Each of us is a fresh version of His creativity. No two of us are identical. Each person is a unique compilation of DNA, environment and circumstances. No one replicates anyone.

Elements of nature- unique.

His children- unique.

Our Lord loves to do all things new. Why would we expect Him to act differently with His church? Will Mancini says we shouldn't. In the volume to hold, he urges us to see each congregation as a one of a kind creation. Each band of followers is unique from the other.

Each congregation plays the music a bit differently. Even if they play the same piece as the group down the street, the music emerges differently because the musicians are different. Smart conductors discover the sound without their band and exploit it.

Wise church leaders do as well. This book steers us away from the latest conference fads toward innate congregational strengths. If you are looking for a one-size-fits-all approach to a healthy church, try another book. If you are ready to roll up your sleeves and seek the uniqueness of God's presence in your fellowship, this is your tool.

Will Mancini skillfully engages virtually all of the great ideas and opinions that are employed today. He methodically distills and reorders them in a way that makes vision more than a statement. In many ways, this book is the missing link to all the chatter regarding church strategy. It is a unique approach in a saturated discipline; a "both/and" approach, yet still simple. If you think your church doesn't need this book, read chapter five. If you think you don't have time for such a book, read chapter ten. Will works through the mixed messages and synthesizes the compelling truths with the simplicity and clarity he demands from the churches he works with.

We speak from experience. The Auxano team has led our church, Oak Hills Church, San Antonio, through this process. While we are still piecing things together, we see a clearer vision emerging. May you discover the same.

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